

Message Text

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SUBJ: SFCP/US-YUGOSLAV SCIENCE--NSF PROJECT QEE

REF : STATE 15652

SUMMARY: WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE THAT NSF APPROACH USING TACTICS OUTLINED IN REFTEL WOULD BE HELPFUL EITHER IN TERMS OF OVERALL US-YUGOSLAV INTERESTS OR IN TERMS OF KRANJC'S OWN PERSONAL INTERESTS. WE RECOMMEND, INSTEAD, APPROACH BY NSF USING DIFFERENT ARGUMENTS FROM THOSE OUTLINED REFTEL. END SUMMARY.

1. SCIATT MILLS WAS IN LJUBLJANA JANUARY 23 IN ORDER TO MAKE CONTACT WITH KRANJC, GRANTEE DEAN GRUDEN, AND PIRKMAJER. HE REPORTS THAT MOST OF THE SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS RAISED IN REFTEL SEEM TO BE TRUE. KRANJC ADVISED HIM THAT PASSPORT TAKEN AWAY PURSUANT TO LAW RELATED TO NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY, WHICH PERMITS SUCH ACTION BY POLICE WITHOUT REVEALING TO PERSON INVOLVED REASONS FOR LIFTING OF PASSPORT, AND THAT HE HAS BEEN INTERROGATED BY MILITARY SEVERAL TIMES. KRANJC ALSO REPORTED THAT HIS TENURE IN JEOPARDY, THAT HIS LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF FACULTY NO LONGER EXIST AND THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN PAID FOR QEE WORK SINCE APRIL 1974. HE REPORTS HE IS ALSO PUBLICLY BLAMED BY GRUDEN FOR CANCELLATION OF QEE.

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2. GRUDEN CONFIRMED THAT KRANJC SALARY NOT PAID, BUT STATED THAT THIS JUSTIFIED INTER ALIA BECAUSE OF SUSPICIONS AND DOUBTS ABOUT WAY QEE PROJECT HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT AND BELIEF THAT KRANJC'S PERFORMANCE OF WORK ON PROJECT WAS INADEQUATE. IT APPEARS TO US THAT YUGOSLAV ACTIONS SINCE TERMINATION OF PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH EFFORTS TO PIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROJECT'S FAILURE PERSONALLY ON KRANJC.

3. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT APPROACH BY NSF, AS OUTLINED PARA 6 REFTTEL, CHARACTERIZING THIS TREATMENT AS HARASSMENT, WOULD SERVE ANY U.S. INTEREST NOR WOULD IT HELP KRANJC PERSONALLY. IN FACT, BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE IT MIGHT PRECIPITATE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST KRANJC FOR WHICH NEITHER EMBASSY NOR USG WOULD HAVE ANY LEGITIMATE GROUNDS FOR INTERVENTION, SINCE KRANJC YUGOSLAV CITIZEN. WE RECALL IN REVIEWING PAST HISTORY OF QEE THAT AS KRANJC SUPPLIED US WITH INFORMATION ON PROJECT WHICH WAS EMBARRASSING TO YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES, MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST HIM PERSONALLY HAVE ESCALATED.

4. WE WOULD ALSO RECALL THAT PRESENT LEGITIMATE USG INTEREST IN THIS MATTER IS HOW TO ASSURE THAT QEE PROJECT IS TERMINATED AS PROMPTLY, EFFICIENTLY, AND INEXPENSIVELY AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT NSF APPROACH TO RAJACIC NOT RPT NOT TOUCH ON HARASSMENT OF KRANJC BUT RATHER POINT TO RESPONSIBILITY OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS TO TERMINATE PROJECT IN MANNER WHICH WILL MINIMIZE DAMAGE TO OUR JOINT COOPERATION IN THE SCIENCE FIELD. IN ORDER FOR THIS TO BE SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED, GRANTEE MUST OBVIOUSLY OBSERVE TERMS MAY 1974 JOINT BOARD DECISION LIMITING HIS ROLE TO THAT OF ASSURING CONTINUITY OF PROJECT AND PROPER ACCOUNTING FOR FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT USED IN PROJECT. GRANTEE'S ACTION IN REFUSING PAY KRANJC'S SALARY EXCEEDS HIS AUTHORITY AND DIRECTLY CONTRADICTS THE JOINT BOARD DECISIONS. FURTHERMORE, SINCE KRANJC UNDER-

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STANDABLY REFUSING ANY FURTHER WORK ON TERMINATION OF PROJECT UNTIL HE PAID, IT NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE TO UNDERTAKE ANY OF THE NUMEROUS TASKS (INVENTORYING EQUIPMENT, DETERMINING ITS DISPOSITION, ETC.), WHICH ARE REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE TERMINATION OF THE PROJECT. SUGGEST NSF EMPHASIZE THIS POINT.

5. IT SEEMS TO US THAT STRESSING MUTUAL INTEREST IN

SPEEDY TERMINATION OF THE PROJECT AND MUTUAL INTEREST IN AVOIDING ANY FURTHER DISPUTES OVER THE PROJECT MORE LIKELY TO RESULT IN ACHIEVEMENT OUR GOAL THAN WOULD BE CHARGE OF HARASSMENT, WHICH IS NOT ONLY DIFFICULT TO ESTABLISH CONCLUSIVELY, BUT ALSO SINCE KRANJC OBVIOUSLY USG SOURCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHARGE, COULD LEAD TO EVEN FURTHER PERSONAL DIFFICULTIES FOR HIM.

6. OTHER POINTS IN NSF APPROACH, E.G., THAT NSF SOURCE OF POSSIBLE POST PL-480 FUNDING, ETC., SEEM APPROPRIATE. WE ALSO AGREE THAT APPROACH AT DIPLOMATIC LEVEL INAPPROPRIATE.
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